



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 19, 1998

S. 2317

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1998

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 29, 1998*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2317 would have no effect on federal discretionary spending. The bill could affect governmental receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any such effect would be negligible. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2317 would transfer jurisdiction over certain wildlife refuge lands from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to other federal and nonfederal entities. These transfers would have no effect on the budget of either the USFWS or the receiving agency.

The bill also would reduce the penalty for unintentional violations of the National Wildlife Refuge System Act by recategorizing them from Class A misdemeanors to Class B misdemeanors, thus making them easier to prosecute. The change would lower the maximum fine for such violations from \$100,000 to \$5,000. Based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that this provision would have a negligible effect on governmental receipts because any receipts forgone as a result of the reduction in the maximum penalty is likely to be more or less offset in any given year by additional fines collected as a result of an increase in prosecutions.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal spending), and Hester Grippando (for governmental receipts). This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.